Setting up of surveillance centres in the country

4818. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up 563 surveillance centres all over the country in next five years for immediate reporting of infectious diseases;

(b) if so, the break-up of these centres, region-wise;

(c) whether the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Chandigarh is proposed to be made a nodal surveillance centre for the northern region; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Under the 10th Five Year Plan, a Project Implementation Plan, integrating various activities involving disease surveillance is under preparation so as to strengthen the existing surveillance system throughout the country at the District, State and National levels and to build up additional capacities for effective communication and technology upgradation of laboratories etc, ensure involvement of public and private sector institutions, private practitioners and NGOs in the process of effective implementation of disease surveillance programme. This would integrate non-communicable diseases also in the programme, develop proper urban surveillance system, and optimize the utilization of available resources and to bring about effective inter-sectoral cooperation among various agencies in the Health and Non-Health Sector. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh would be an important institute for supporting the disease surveillance programme, especially in the Northern States.

Eradication of leprosy

4819. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the efforts made by Government in the past two decades, the country is still far behind its poorer neighbours like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka in eliminating leprosy;

(b) if so, whether this was revealed by the World Health Organisation;

(c) whether other South-East Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand,